



- ☐ English language abstract(s) of foreign patent document(s)
- ☐ This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. §120, on the earlier filing date of U.S. Application Serial No. \*\*\*\*, filed \*\*\*. The information identified on the attached PTO 1449 form was submitted to and/or cited by the Patent and Trademark Office in this earlier application and, therefore, copies are not required to be provided in this application.

1. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the later of:
- ☐ three months from the filing date of this national application;
  - ☐ three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; or
  - ☐ the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(b), no fee is required.

2. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed after the events noted in paragraph 1, but before either:
- ☒ a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution,
  - ☐ a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c), also enclosed is

- ☐ a fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) for \$180.00; or
  - ☒ a certification as stated below.
3. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before payment of the issue fee, but after either
- ☐ a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution;
  - ☐ a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(d), also enclosed is:

- ☐ a certification, as stated below; and
- ☐ the IDS processing fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p)(1) in the amount of \$180.00.

Certification

The undersigned states:

☒ Each item of Information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement; or

☐ No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement.

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☐ A check for the amount of the above indicated TOTAL FEES is attached.

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0733 in the amount of \$ .

☐ A check for \$ is enclosed.

☒ No fee is required.

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A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed for accounting purposes.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner fully consider each item of information, initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 in the appropriate place to indicate that the information has been considered, and return a copy of the initialed form to the undersigned in accordance with MPEP Section 609.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

By:   
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Dated: November 2, 2001

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**Complete if Known**

## NOV 05 2001

(use as many sheets as necessary)

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Application Number

09/659,379

Filing Date

September 8, 2000

First Named Inventor

Aaron I. VINIK et al

### Group Art Unit

1652

**Examiner Name**

**Patricia A. Robinson**

Attorney Docket Number

05126.00003

[illegible][illegible]

**Examiner  
Signature**

Date Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Application Number	09/659,379
Filing Date	September 8, 2000
First Named Inventor	Aaron I. VINIK et al
Group Art Unit	1652
Examiner Name	Patricia A. Robinson
Attorney Docket Number	05126.00003

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